

PRINCIPAL OCCURRENCES IN THE YEAR 1798.

DECEMBER—1797.

(Omitted last year.)

7. Municipality of Amsterdam presented Admiral de Winter with a superb sword, as a mark of respect for his conduct in the engagement with Admiral Duncan.
22. The Phoebe frigate, Captain Barlow, captured the French frigate La Nereide, 30 leagues west of Scilly.
28. Captain Durham of the Anson, captured the French frigate Daphne, of 30 guns, in the Bay of Biscay.
29. A plan of a loan for defraying the expense of a descent on England was presented to the French Council of Five Hundred.

JANUARY—1798.

1. Smeaton House, belonging to the Duke of Buccleugh, was consumed by fire.—Court Martial which tried Captain Williamson of the Agincourt, for misconduct, &c. in the action with the Dutch fleet on the 11th day of October last, pronounced the following sentence:—That Captain John Williamson be put at the bottom of the list of Post Captains, and be rendered incapable of ever serving on board any of his Majesty's ships.
2. Aluerman Clarke chosen Chamberlain of London, in room of the deceased John Wilkes, Esq.
5. All English goods in France were seized by the Directory, who also ordered the ships of all nations, carrying British produce or manufactures, to be seized.—Captain Reynolds of the Pomone frigate captured the Cheri French frigate of 26 guns, but she sank before she could be taken possession of.
8. The Diet at Rastatt passed a decree granting unlimited powers to the Deputies of the Empire, as demanded by the French Plenipotentiaries.
9. A great promotion took place in the higher ranks in the army.
11. George Meshmaker, weaver, Dundee, was tried before the High Court of Justiciary for sedition, found guilty, and sentenced to transportation for 14 years.—His Majesty sent a message to both Houses of Parliament, intimating the intention of the French to invade Britain, and that he was to call out the supplementary militia.
15. Parliament of Ireland met.
22. Books opened at the Bank of England for receiving voluntary subscriptions.—A new revolution was effected in Holland, similar to that in France on 4th September. Several Deputies were arrested.
23. Captain G. Moore of the Melampus frigate captured La Volage, of 24 guns, in the 23.
28. The Duke of Norfolk was dismissed from his office of Lord Lieutenant of the West Riding of the county of York, and from the command of the militia, on account of his conduct at the meeting of the Whig Club.

FEBRUARY.

5. Accounts received of the loss of the Tribune frigate on the 22d November going into the harbour of Halifax.—Orders were given for raising a body of Sea Fencibles for defence of the coast.—Commissioners were appointed by Britain and France for superintending their prisoners in the different countries.
12. Earl of Aldborough sentenced by the Court of King's Bench, Ireland, to be imprisoned 12 months, pay a fine of 1000l. and give security in 2000l. to keep the peace seven years, for publishing a libel on the Irish House of Lords.
15. The French troops entered Rome, and the people having collected in great crowds, the former government was overturned, and Rome declared a Republic.
16. A magnificent entertainment was given to Admiral Lord Viscount Duncan, by the magistrates of Edinburgh, when all the volunteer corps in the city escorted his Lordship in grand procession to Fortune's Tavern.
19. Earl Moira made a long speech and a motion in the House of Lords, Ireland, for addressing the Lord Lieutenant to adopt compulsory measures for allaying the discontents in Ireland.
26. Advice received of great preparation making in France for invading this country.
28. J. Stockdale, printer of the news-paper the Press, in Dublin, was sentenced to pay 500l. and be imprisoned six months, for printing a libel on the House of Lords.

MARCH.

1. Arthur O'Connor, Leary, Fevey, O'Coigley, &c. were apprehended at Margate, when seeking for a passage to France.
2. Mr Esten applied to the House of Lords for a bill of divorce against his wife, who was long a celebrated actress.—Refused.
8. The Duke de Berri, son of Monsieur, arrived at Holyroodhouse, Edinburgh.—Sir John Borlase Warren captured eleven vessels bound to Brest with naval stores for the expedition fitting against England.
12. Oliver Bond and a Committee of United Irishmen met in his house, Dublin, were apprehended and put in jail.
13. French Directory issued an order for close confining all British prisoners, under pretence their prisoners were ill used in Britain.
19. The President of the American States informed the House of Representatives, that the negotiation with France was not likely to be amicably accommodated.
27. Mr Dundas brought a bill into Parliament for more effectually providing for the defence of the country, in case of invasion.
30. A Proclamation issued by the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, commanding arms to be seized from all traitors and disloyal persons.

APRIL.

2. Mr Pitt laid his plan for the redemption of the land tax before the House of Commons.
3. Mr Wilberforce moved in the House of Commons for a bill to abolish the slave trade; for it 83, against it 87.—The Pallas frigate, of 32 guns, drove ashore and wrecked near Plymouth.—Orders issued in Ireland for all householders to affix a label on their doors, with the names of persons resident within.—The correspondence between the American Commissioners and the French Government was laid before Congress.
11. Several persons were apprehended in Manchester on charges of high treason.—Roger O'Connor tried at Cork for high treason & acquitted.
13. A serious insurrection at Vienna, in which the French Ambassador, Bernadotte, was driven from his hotel, where the tri-coloured flag had been hoisted.
20. A bill to suspend the Habeas Corpus act passed both Houses of Parliament.—His Majesty sent a message to Parliament that the embarkation of troops and warlike stores was carrying on in France for the invasion of Britain, and stating his intention of drawing out the Provisional Cavalry.—Mr Pitt contracted for a loan of 17 millions.
21. L'Hercule, French ship of 74 guns, taken off the Passage du Raz, by the Mars, Captain Hood, who died of his wounds.
23. General Lake appointed Commander of the forces in Ireland, vice Sir Ralph Abercromby, who resigned.
25. Mr Pitt opened the budget.

MAY.

5. The Emperor of Russia appointed a strong squadron to protect the trade of the Sound, in consequence of the French having declared that if any ship was allowed to pass with English commodities, it was equal to a declaration of war.—Port-au-Prince evacuated by the British troops.
6. Sir Sidney Smith, having made his escape from a French prison, arrived in London.
7. A great many gun boats, &c. from La Hogue made an attempt on the Islands of St Maroon, and were beat off.
9. The name of Charles James Fox was, by order of his Majesty, struck from the list of Privy Counsellors.
17. General Assembly of Church of Scotland met at Edinburgh.
18. Earl of Kingston tried in Dublin for shooting Colonel Fitzgerald, who had seduced his daughter.—Not guilty.
19. Lord Ed. Fitzgerald was apprehended in a house in Dublin, 1000l. had been offered for apprehending him. He wounded several of the persons who attempted to apprehend him.—General Buonaparte sailed from Toulon, with a great armament for the invasion of Egypt.—General Coote and the forces under him, after landing at Ostend, and destroying the Flood-gates, &c. surrendered to the enemy.
21. Arthur O'Connor, O'Coigley, &c. tried at Maidstone for High Treason. O'Coigley found guilty, and afterwards executed. O'Connor kept prisoner, and transmitted to Dublin on another charge of treason.
22. The Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, sent a message to both Houses of Parliament, acquainting them that a rebellion was likely to break out in Ireland. Same night the mail coaches on different roads were intercepted, robbed, and burnt. From this time forward a number of engagements took place, in which great numbers of the rebels were killed.
23. Eighteen Dutch doggers sailed into Yarmouth, by Admiral Onslow's cruiser.

Putney Heath.—A detachment of the Regt fencibles, under Captain Scobie, attacked a strong party of United Irishmen, and killed 350.

30. Two brass field-pieces were found concealed under ground in a cow-house, Belfast.

JUNE.

3. Lord Ed. Fitzgerald died in Dublin jail, in consequence of the wounds he received when he was apprehended.
4. Colonel Walpole killed in an action near Slievebuey with the United Irishmen, who defeated the party, and took four field-pieces.
5. Major-General Johnston defeated a strong body of rebels, near New Ross—several hundreds killed.
6. Mess. Reeves, Wilkinson, and Adamson, respectable merchants, were executed in London for forgery.
7. A severe action in the town of Antrim—rebels defeated.
8. Mr Pitt about this time was seized with a severe indisposition, which prevented him doing any business for a long time.
9. A severe action took place between the King's troops and the rebels at Saintfield, Ireland. The latter at first, successful, but afterwards defeated with great slaughter.
12. Malta surrendered to the French forces under General Buonaparte.
14. House of Commons debated on several motions relative to Ireland—strangers excluded.
18. Lieut. Rae, of the Breadalbane fencibles, tried in the High Court of Justiciary, Edinburgh, for killing Lieut. McVean of same corps, in a duel on the 20th April, at Aberdeen.—Not Guilty.—The rebels kept possession of Wexford for several days, but were afterwards expelled.—A revolution took place in Holland, prompted by General Dandels, &c.
20. Marquis of Cornwallis arrived in Dublin as Lord Lieutenant, vice Lord Camden.—About this time several rebels were tried and executed in Ireland.
21. A severe action with the rebels at Vinegar Hill.—The United Irishmen resident at Paris petitioned the Directory to send forces to Ireland.
27. Captain Foote of the Seahorse frigate captured the Sensible frigate of 26 guns, having on board General Baraguay D'Hilliers, with dispatches for Toulon, announcing the capture of Malta.
28. The Irish Parliament voted 100,000l. for the relief of loyal sufferers by the rebellion.
29. The Jason, Captain Stirling, La Pique, Captain Milne and Mermad, Captain Newman, captured La Seine French frigate, off the Saints. The two former run aground; the Jason got off, but La Pique was wrecked. Captain Milne appointed to the command of the captured frigate.—British Parliament was prorogued.

JULY.

1. The French forces under General Buonaparte landed in Egypt.
5. The King of Sardinia agreed that the Citadel of Turin should be occupied by the French troops.
13. The Mess. Sheares were tried and convicted of high treason in Dublin—afterwards executed.
15. Captain Dixon, of his Majesty's ship Lion, captured the Dorothea Spanish frigate of 42 guns, in face of three other frigates of equal force.
23. Oliver Bond tried for high treason at Dublin.—Guilty.

AUGUST.

1. Admiral Nelson attacked and defeated the French squadron in Aboukir Bay, at the mouth of the Nile—sank nine sail of the line and two frigates.
2. Mr Palmer, actor, dropt dead while performing on Liverpool stage.
4. Mr Oliver Bond was pardoned.
6. A. McDonnell, Esq. of Glengary, was tried before the Justiciary Court, Edinburgh, for shooting Lieutenant Macleod, in a duel on the 3d May, at Inverness.
8. The Leander, of 50 guns, was captured by a French 74 near Candia.
21. A Secret Committee of the House of Commons, Ireland, laid a report before the House, relative to the plans of the United Irishmen.
22. A party of 800 French landed at Killala Bay, Ireland.
27. The French troops who landed in Ireland, defeated the forces under General Lake, and took six pieces of cannon, owing to some of the militia regiments refusing to act.

SEPTEMBER.

1. The Grand Seigneur issued a decree for expelling the French from Egypt.
6. Oliver Bond died in Dublin jail.
7. The French troops (800) who landed in Ireland, surrendered to General Lake.
11. The Sublime Porte issued a manifesto against France.
13. A treaty agreed upon at London, for regulating the exchange of prisoners between France and Britain.
18. Admiral Nelson arrived in the Bay of Naples, when the King of Naples went on board his vessel, and shewed him the highest respect.

In the course of this month the yellow fever broke out in Philadelphia, New York, &c. more deadly than any former occasion.

OCTOBER.

6. Admiral Nelson was created a Baron of Great Britain.
9. Parliament of Ireland was prorogued.
12. Sir J. B. Warren defeated a French squadron on the coast of Ireland, captured Le Hoche of 84 guns, and several large frigates.
13. The Jason frigate was lost on the coast of France.
18. Captain Durham, of the Anson, captured La Loire, of 46 guns, with soldiers on board, and brought her into Plymouth.
23. The Government of Ireland having agreed to allow Arthur O'Connor, and several other state prisoners, to depart his Majesty's dominions, they received orders to prepare to leave the kingdom.
26. A French squadron, supposed with troops on board, arrived on the coast of Ireland, but put to sea again on hearing of Sir J. B. Warren's victory.—A serious insurrection broke out in the Netherlands.
28. The French troops in the Castle of Goza surrendered to the British forces under Captain Ball, of the ship Alexander.

NOVEMBER.

1. Captain King of the Sirius captured two Dutch frigates, with troops on board, off the Texel, bound for Ireland.
2. A meeting of merchants, bankers, &c. was held at the Mansion-house, London, to recommend a tax on income to the Minister.
10. Theobald Wolfe Tone was tried in Dublin, for being found on board a French ship of war, in arms against his King and country. Guilty.
12. T. W. Tone killed himself in prison.
14. The island of Minorca surrendered to the British forces under General Stewart and Commodore Duckworth, without the loss of a man.
20. The British Parliament met.
23. The French army in Italy were attacked by the Neapolitan army, commanded by General Mack, defeated, and forced to retreat from Rome.
24. Napper Tandy was apprehended at Hamburg, at the instance of Sir James Crawford, but afterwards liberated.
30. A meeting of the merchants, bankers, &c. of Edinburgh was held, and approved of the resolutions of the London meeting, held on the 2d inst.

DECEMBER.

3. Mr Pitt laid before the House of Commons his plan for laying a tax on income.
7. The French declared war against the King of the Two Sicilies, and the King of Sardinia.
10. The Colossus, of 74 guns, Captain G. Murray, was lost at Scilly.
14. Advice received, by report, that General Buonaparte had been shot at Grand Cairo.
26. The House of the Earl of Essex, in May Fair, London, burnt to the ground—with the valuable furniture, &c.

BIRTHS.

- The Countess of Dalkeith, a son.
Lady Charlotte Greville, daughter of the Duke of Portland, a son.
The Lady of Sir William Elliott of Stobs, a son.
Mrs MacLeod of Colbeck, a daughter.
Lady Charlotte Campbell, a son.
Lady Charlotte Hope, a son.
The Marchioness of Titchfield, a daughter.
The Lady of Sir John Scott, Bart. of Ancrum, a son.
Lady Ann Hope, a son.
Viscountess Fielding, a son.
Lady Stewart of Grandtully, a daughter.
The Countess of Guildford, a daughter.
The Lady of Sir William Ramsay, Bart. a daughter.
Lady Charlotte Lennox, a daughter.

Mrs Dundas of Arncliffe, a son.
The Lady of Sir John Stirling, Bart. of Gairloch, a son.
The Lady of Sir Hector Mackenzie, Bart. of Gairloch, a son.

MARRIAGES.

- Sir Charles Gascoigne, to Miss Guthrie.
William Phillips Esq., to the Right Hon. Lady Elizabeth Euphemia Stewart, daughter of the Earl of Galloway.
Colonel Leith, of the Aberdeenshire fencibles, to the Hon. Lady Augusta Forbes, sister of the Right Hon. Earl of Granard.
Capt. Ross, to the Hon. Miss Browne, daughter of the late Lord Kilmuir.
Col. John Hope, to Miss Eliza Hope.
The Earl of Home, to the Right Hon. Lady Elizabeth Montague second daughter of the Duke of Buccleugh.
John Smith, Bradshaw, Esq. to Miss Ogilvy, eldest daughter of Sir John Ogilvie, Bart.
General Craddock, to Lady Theodosia Meade.

DEATHS.

- The Right Hon. John Scott, Earl of Clonmel, Baron Earlsfort, Chief Justice of the Court of King's Bench, Ireland.
Mr Archibald Hunter Blair, seventh son of the late Sir James Hunter Blair of Dunkey, Bart.
George James Hay, Earl of Errol, Baron Hay of Slanes, Hereditary Lord High Constable of Scotland, and one of the Sixteen Scots Peers in the present Parliament.
Lady Cockburn, widow of Sir James Cockburn, Bart.
Mrs Ann Gordon, relict of the Right Hon. Robert Dundas, of Arncliffe, Lord President of the Court of Session.
Lady Maxwell, spouse to Sir William Maxwell of Monrieth, Bart.
Mrs Trapaud, widow of Alexander Trapaud, Esq. Governor of Fort Augustus.
Lieutenant William Murray, in the service of the Honourable East India Company.
The Right Hon. James Hamilton, Earl Clanbrassil.
Lord Lisle, of Ireland.
The Honourable Lieutenant General Thomas Bruce, Colonel of the 16th regiment of foot, and Member of Parliament for Bedwin. He was son to the late Earl of Kincardine, brother to the late, and uncle to the present Earl of Elgin.
David Martin, Esq. portrait painter, limner to his Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland, Member of the Royal Company of Archers, &c.
The Right Honourable the Earl of Kingston.
Sir John Sinclair of Longformacus.
Mrs Francis Stuart, Lady of Lieut. Colonel Spens.
James Reid, Esq. Rear Admiral.
Mrs Beckford, relict of the Right Hon. W. Beckford.
The Right Rev. Dr. Hen. Maxwell, Bishop of Meath.
Lord William Hay, 4th son of the Marquis of Tweeddale.
Field Marshal Sir Adam Williamson.
Lieut. Gen. Sir Adam Williamson.
Wilhelmina Countess of Leven and Melville.

DECEMBER 26.

HOUSE OF COMMONS—Dec. 27.

PARTRIDGE SHOOTING.

Mr SHAW LEFFEVRE gave notice of his intention of moving for a repeal of so much of the game laws as prohibit the shooting of Partridge until the 14th of September, and restricting the same to the 1st of February in each year. The purport of what he should introduce instead of the present laws, was, to revive the original period of commencing the season, and extending the same to the 12th of February.

HABEAS CORPUS.

Mr LONG brought up the report of this bill, which was ordered to be read a third time to-morrow.

PARLIAMENTARY REPORTS.

Mr TIERNEY said, that a newspaper which he then held in his hand (the Times) had taken a liberty with him, which neither the statement therein given or the privilege of Parliament warranted. He then adverted to the debate of last Saturday night, and noticing the substance of the same, stated that a gross misrepresentation of what fell not only from him on that occasion, but also of that delivered by another Gentleman (The Chancellor of the Exchequer) on that occasion. He made this complaint, and it was with the House to redress it—not merely on his account, but for its own dignity.

The SPEAKER referred to the Journals, where it appeared that in 1771 a similar complaint occurred, and where the charge was divided into two parts; one, that of publishing—the other, that of wilfully misrepresenting speeches in that House.

Mr TIERNEY then said, that the latter part was certainly the case, and the charge he had to make came within its meaning fully. And persevering in his complaint, in form signified it to the following effect: I do complain of the publication and the misrepresentation of debates, as inserted in the newspaper called The Times, published on the 26th of December instant, purporting to be observations made by a Right Honourable Gentleman (the Chancellor of the Exchequer) and myself, on the night of the 22d instant, in contempt of the order, and in breach of the privilege of the House.

The SPEAKER having read the complaint, urged the propriety of moving, that the paper should be read and laid on the table.

Which being moved accordingly, Mr PITT did not rise to oppose the motion, though he thought that considerable embarrassment would attend noticing it much farther, but he rejoiced in it, as it gave him a second opportunity of mentioning in terms if possible more forcible the untruth of the insinuation, the falsehood of the rumour which had crept into the world relative to the Noble personage, the subject of last Saturday night's debate in that House.

As to the question before the House, how far it was wise or unwise to connive at a breach of privilege, or by an application of one of its standing orders exert that privilege altogether, or more immediately confine their notice to the complaint then before the House, would be matter for consideration at another day; at present he thought it right to notice a growing abuse, which equally attached to all descriptions of periodical publications relative to their debates, and which if this print in question claimed their indignation, must equally be come subject to their reprehension.

Mr TIERNEY expressed equal satisfaction at the opportunity this afforded him of doing the most ample justice in his power to the character of the Nobleman adverted to; he then announced the personage to be Lord Auckland, and in terms of the strongest signification, not only disavowed any intention of calumniating that Nobleman, but directly stated that the rumour was unfounded and totally untrue.

[Here a mutual explanation took place between Mr Tierney and Mr Pitt, which seemed to conclude to the satisfaction of each Gentleman, as it regarded Lord Auckland.]

The question was put, "That the paper be read," which being carried, another question was put, "That the same be now taken into consideration."

The discussion of this subject was postponed till Monday next. In the interim, the newspaper above-mentioned was ordered to lie on the table.

TAX ON INCOME.

On the question, that the Report of the Committee on this bill be now taken into consideration,

Sir W. PULTENEY said, It must be acknowledged as an axiom, that the beauty and perfection of the British constitution over all those on the globe were, the security it afforded to life, liberty, and property. Taking this as a basis for his argument, he would show that the bill then before the House, would, if passed into a law, render the first scarcely worth enjoying, the second insecure, and the third more insecure and uncertain than the second; the first undoubtedly was protected by the Grand and Petit Juries, and the Criminal Law, as far as the second was concerned, in some measure protected the person; life, therefore, and personal liberty were not altogether in such danger by the bill as was property.

It was a maxim in taxation, that the subject should have an optional power in submitting to an impost; but this bill totally undermined that palladium of taxation, and forced down the throats of Englishmen one of the most tyrannic measures that any enlightened country ever suffered. It was very true there existed taxes in this country which were not optional; they were betwixt, however, that was the tax on land, and that on houses—both of which are found highly detrimental at this day.

He held it as his opinion, that nothing more deplorable, except the forced loans and rigid requisitions that occurred in a neighbouring country, and which justly excited the displeasure and detestation of all good men, never took place in any part of Europe before this. By this bill, property was not only precarious, but insecure; By this bill, every revenue to industry was choked up, and all gradations of society would, in their degree, feel its baneful effects.

He assured the House, that although at the present instant gentlemen might imagine the wealthy would not, or could not suffer by it, he would undertake to prove, they would become no more exempt from its fury than the poor. The middling classes of life, however, would first feel it, and they should have been saved from its rage. He asked emphatically, who constituted the strength, what maintained the liberties, and what asserted the pre-eminence of this nation in the opinion and knowledge of the world? He answered, "The middling classes of the people."

He then asserted, that this bulwark of our strength, our liberties, and our pre-eminence, was at one blow struck down by this bill, never, he feared, to rise with equal vigour and spirit. Men in embarrassed circumstances, whether in trade or not were to be rendered miserable by the exposure of their situation, and driven to premature bankruptcy and ruin; men in affluence would likewise feel in a decree the effects of a painful disclosure of their circumstances. (A long) Gentlemen, he said, might laugh at the other side of the House, but he would show they would not have much cause to laugh; and he went on to state, that men in affluence, who might happen to have children of an indolent or extravagant turn, as soon as such disclosure the extent of their father's property, they would be at a tangent from industry and education, and depending on that which they expected from their parents, get up all laudable pursuits, and become votaries to idleness and extravagance. The words of the bill lays the post on but three years, he however warned gentlemen against that device; who ever yet knew that a positive tax would be cancelled, who ever knew a waste of moderate as to forego an abundant resource of safety and means? nay, who can say it is not the interest of Ministers to make it perpetual.

It was proudly stated that men's affairs would be exposed by this measure of finance; was it not exposed when every man's neighbour would become acquainted with his means? Where was the secrecy to be kept and by whom! Not by the Commissioners, for they were only bound by an oath that left an open door to them at the request of the Minister to communicate whatever came to their knowledge of any man's property. The Hon. Baronet then entered into an account of taxation since the earliest times. He shewed that Cromwell first put a similar tax in execution; but so odious was the measure that Charles II. found necessary to abolish it. Forced taxation will not succeed—revolution, if not rebellion must follow it.

The sum this would fructify from all orders would be immense. The money so deducted from all ranks the people was certainly great; yet, great as the amount of that was, let twice the sum go, but not an atom the Constitution.

Mr RYDER would not enter into a discussion of detail of the bill, but merely reply to a principal objection stated by the Hon. Baronet, namely, that a tax was "not optional," and afforded no opportunity to the individual of making an election, whether he could pay it or not. Most certainly this was the effect of the tax, and the principle of the bill undoubtedly went all that length—so it was intended. He willingly asked, What was the tax which persons were like to pay? Mankind, he thought, must be frugal altered within these few days, if any system of taxation had been discovered that could afford amusement or discharge of it. From the most remote periods of present hour, it would be found, that taxation was nor ever intended to be optional. Was the tax optional here? Was the tax on collateral success optional in Holland? Optional taxation was a novelty.

Mr JONES was against the bill. Mr BROWNE was at a loss to conceive how the present bill could be pronounced an infringement upon the Constitution. Much has been said of the mode of supplying subsequent to the Revolution; but the liberties of England did not originate with the Revolution, and perhaps at no period of our history were our liberties and rights better secured than when modes of taxation to the present measure were referred to.

Mr W. SMITH still continued firm in his objection to the principle of the bill. On the subject of pensions and places under Government, he had recourse to quotations from his name-fake, Dr. Smith, to prove the justice and expediency of a tax; as the office salaries of such situations were most cases but a small part of the remuneration they received.

Sir JAMES PULTENEY wished some clause inserted for the convenience of the poor, who might be interested might be adopted for the accommodation of landed property.

Mr BURDON said, he approved of this measure, particularly, as it affected minors and capitalists, who were remained untouched.

The report was ordered to be further considered to-morrow.

A report has again got into circulation of a Dutch squadron having, within these few days, put to sea from the Texel. This has not the sanction of any letters from the coast. We believe the Texel is not at this time navigable, on account of the frost.

Four Hamburg mails yet continue, due, nor has any intelligence been received from the Continent later than that which appeared in the French papers that arrived on Tuesday. One speaks slightly of Malta having surrendered to the allies on the 19th of November. A confirmation of this news may be expected by the next accounts from Lisbon.

One cause that may be reasonably assigned for the non-arrival of the Hamburg mails is, that all the packets were, till within these few days, on this side the water.

Dr Logan, the envoy of the French party to the Executive Directory of France, has at length returned to America. In a letter written at Bordeaux, just before his departure, he said, he should "bring with him dispatches calculated to restore harmony between the two States." All American vessels in the harbours of France had been released; all American prisoners have been let at liberty; and the most positive assurances have been made, that France is ready to enter on a treaty for the amicable accommodation of all matters in dispute. The Director had, on his return, waited on the Secretary of State, and Gen. Washington, but both refused to attend to his representations; the most important of which, it is rumoured, was an offer of the Directory to fund the debt incurred by depredations on the commerce of the United States.

We were concerned to learn that accounts were yesterday received in the city of the capture of some of the homeward-bound West India convoy, on account of the dispersion of which in a gale of wind we mentioned some days ago.

Twenty-five Irish labourers were yesterday examined at Bow-street, and several of them were committed on a charge of a riot and assault. Some nights ago about forty Bow-street officers, patrols, and assistants, went to the King's Arms public-house, in Maynard-street, St Giles, in search of Irish recruits, deserted from the Worcester Fencibles. They found a great many Irish there, and up stairs a club of men and women, called a *Jack and Hen Club*. All St Giles's was soon roused on the officer. "Erin go brab," (Ireland for ever) was retched round the streets, and a terrible and sanguinary conflict took place between the officers armed with cutlasses, and the mob armed with bludgeons, knives, &c. in which the latter were defeated.

Seven companies of the 88th regiment are embarked on board the *Taunton Castle* and *Carnatic* Indiamen, and only wait a fair wind. On account of the loss of the *Henry Addington*, three companies are left for the present at Hilsa barracks, where are likewise 400 of the guards.

General Jerry is appointed by the Duke of York Preceptor of the new Military Academy in Buckinghamshire.

Lord Castlereagh left town on Tuesday, for Ireland. The hop duty for the year 1798 is at length ascertained from Government authority, and amounts only to 36,032l. 1s. 9d.

The *Plato* frigate has captured a large Spanish ship, loaded with sugar and cotton, valued at 40,000l. and carried her to St John's, Newfoundland.

FIRE AT LORD ESSEX'S, IN MAY-FAIR.

Last night, between seven and eight o'clock, a terrible fire broke out at the spacious mansion of the Earl of Essex, in Curzon Street, May-fair, which consumed the whole of the premises; the flames raging with such incredible fury, that scarce any of the valuable furniture could be saved. It began while the family were at dinner. A large party being invited to cards in the evening, the drawing-room was lighted up for the purpose, and while the company were regaling, the alarm was given that the room was on fire. His Lordship, and the gentlemen who were with him, and the servants, ran up in hopes of extinguishing the flames, but it was too late, their lives being endangered at the entrance of the apartment.

L'ORIENT, 17 PRIMAIRE, DEC. 7.

The frigate *La Bravoure* arrived in this road on the 5th instant. It set sail from Brest about eight months ago for Cape Francois, and carried General Hedouville and some troops. On their arrival at the Cape they found things much changed. The Negro General Toussaint Louverture refused they say, to receive them. He proclaimed the independence of the colony, so that General Hedouville returned in the frigate with his troops. The frigate has taken an American vessel bound for China, having on board 35 barrels, each containing 5000 piastres. *La Bravoure* was accompanied by the *Cocarde* and the *Siren*. They have brought back the Commissary Raymond.

LLOYD'S MARINE LIST, Dec. 28.

The Duke of York, *Barnet*, from London to Barbadoes, is put back to Biscay, with some damage. Parted company with the *Commodore* on the 12th instant, at which time only nine sail were in company.

The *Eleanor*, Davidson, from Virginia to Bilbao, is captured near Bilbao, and carried into Bayonne.

The *Jong Christian*, Rylan, from Denia to London, is on shore in Herne Bay.

The *Betsy*, Wheatly, from Memel, is on shore on the White Rocks.

The *Recovery*, Sanderson, from Guernsey to Bristol, has been on shore at Guernsey, and received much damage.

The *Charlotte*, Williams, from London to Chester, is lost off Cork Harbour, only one boy saved.

The *Janviny*, Nafel, from Grenada to St Thomas's and Guernsey, has been taken, retaken, and carried into St Kitts.

The *Friends*, Goodwill, of Sunderland, Taylor, from London, is on shore at Corton, crew saved.

The *Peace* and *Plenty*, Orr, from Dublin to Saltcoats, is lost near Port Patrick.

The *Rodney*, Colburn, from London to St Vincent's, has been taken, retaken by the *Cambrian* frigate, and arrived at Plymouth.

The *Ann*, of Liverpool, has been taken by the *Intrepid* privateer; the crew arrived at Plymouth in the *Bella*, Dale, from Georgetown.

The *Hero*, Kendall, from Martinico, is lost at Gibraltar.

The *Mirador*, Chivers, from London, to Nevis, is put back to Plymouth, with loss of mainmast, and five of her crew washed overboard, in a gale of wind, the 6th instant.

The *Young Christian*, Reyton, from London, is lost near Margate. Crew saved.

The *Argus*, Wintrop, from Barbadoes, to Liverpool, foundered at sea, the 8th December. Crew saved.

The *Harriot*, Stephenson, from Liverpool, to Londonderry, is lost near Newry. Crew saved.

The *Juffrow*, Johanna, Recs, with coals, is lost near Lowestoft.

The *Oliver*, Bann, from Plymouth to Liverpool, is put into Amble, leaky.

The *Friendship*, Smith, from St Ube's to Falmouth, has been taken by the *Invincible* Bonaparte privateer, and burnt.

WINDS AT DUBLIN.

December 25. N.E. blows hard.—26. E. S. E. do.—27. E.

MAILS.

Arrived—Ireland, 5.—Lisbon, 6.

Due—Ireland, 5.—Hamburg, 4.—Leeward Islands 6.

LONDON PRICES.

SACKS.		HOPS.		SOCKETS.	
Kent	91 10s to 101 10s	Kent	101 10s to 111 10s	4s	
Essex	91 0s to 101 0s	Essex	9 10s to 11 10s	6s	
Essex	91 0s to 101 0s	Fulham	141 0s to 151 0s	6s	

LEATHER, per lb.

Butts 50 to 60 lb 17d to 18d—Vitto 60 to 90 lb 19d to 20d—Merchans Backs, 17d to 18d—Dressing Hides, 17d to 19d—Fine Coach Hides, 19d to 20d—Crown Hides for cutting 18d to 19d—Flat Ordinary, 17d to 18d—Calf Skins, 4s to 50 lb per doz. 24d to 25d—Ditto, 60 to 80 lb 24d to 25d—Ditto 80 to 120 lb 24d to 25d—Small Seals (Greenland) 2s to 2s 6d per doz.—Large ditto, 14s to 16s per doz.—Tanned Harle Hides, 25s to 30s per hide—Goat Skins, 21s to 25s per doz.—Price of Bark per load 17l 10s to 18l 0s.

RAW HIDES.		SMITHFIELD.	
Hides p. ft. 25 to 30	od	Beef 3s 0d to 4s 0d	od
Middling 25 to 30	8d	Mutton 3s 0d to 4s 0d	od
Ordinary 25 to 30	od		

TALLOW.		STOCKS.	
St James's Market	0s 0d	This day (Dec. 28.)	at twelve o'clock 3 per cent. red. 53 5/8
Chine Market	3s 6d	3 per cent. con. flut. 54 5/8 up	
Whitechapel Market	3s 6d		

NEWGATE AND LEADENHALL.		TALLOW.	
Beef 2s 6d to 3s 8d	od	Town Tallow	60s 6d to 61s 0d
Mutton 2s 4d to 3s 4d	od	Rufado (and)	55s to 58s

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LEWIS. Dec. 19 1798.

Upon Wednesday the 15th ult. there appeared off this coast sundry ships, which by their manœuvres were supposed to be enemies. Upon the first ship being seen the came in from the N. E. and after getting close in under Nofs Head, hove to with her courses hauled in, and topails aback, when the fired several great guns, lying with head off shore to the eastward. In about two hours thereafter she was joined by five other ships, all to appearance ships of war of different rates. The whole fleet were seen hovering off the fourth end of Shetland for three days, when, some people aver, they had increased to nine in number, and that at least two of them were line of battle ships. Be that as it may, it occasioned a good deal of alarm, and the more so, as they continued for four days tacking under the land, with fine weather, and the wind so as they could either have gone to the wellward or southward, if they had been so inclined. They have not however been seen or heard of since.

Soon after this, a Prussian ship from Liverpool, laden with 4667 bushels of English falts, bound for Embden, after losing her rudder, and driving sometime to the northward of Shetland, drove close in under the land, when the crew immediately hoisted their boats out and deserted the vessel; and when on their way to the shore were met by some fishermen puffing off, thinking they wanted a pilot, and after having some intercourse together the fishermen agreed that if any of the crew would come into their boat they would try to go out and get on board, and if possible, by the help of the falts, to bring the vessel into the next bay called Burrarferth in Ulst, the most northerly part of the country. Accordingly the chief mate and boatswain went into the fishermen's boat, and with difficulty and great hazard got on board, and brought the vessel to anchor in a very exposed situation; but the sea became so boisterous, that they found it necessary again to desert the vessel and try to get on shore to save their lives, which they effected with the greatest effort.

Next morning they observed the vessel still riding at anchor, but all her three masts overboard, by the violence of the sea. For three days thereafter the storm and sea continued, so as no boat could get off from the shore, or get near the vessel, and in that situation they lay until the weather and sea abated, so as to allow the boats to get on board, when they immediately ran out the cable she was riding by, and came further up into the bay, and let go their other bower anchors, and again were obliged to quit her and run for the shore; and the next morning, with another heavy gale the cable broke or cut upon the ground near to the anchor, when the immediately drove on shore upon the rocks, and although a very strong ship of 600 tons, in less than two hours there was not a vestige of the wreck to be seen within 500 yards of the rock where the broke.

The whole articles saved from the wreck sold for 47l. Sterling, so that it may be easily figured how complete a wreck she was. The crew got to Leith in the Dublin.

On Friday the 14th inst. our Sheriff got information that a sloop was in one of the most northerly creeks of Shetland running goods, upon which he manned the rendezvous boat with volunteers all armed, and sent her off in quest of the sloop. When on their way they fell in with three boats with spirits, part of the cargo of the sloop, which they took and carried to Laxfirth, a place in the country where the Sheriff resides; when he seized them as forfeited. From the accounts we have, there is about 105 ankers, but all in bad condition.

The sloop had put to sea before the rendezvous boat reached the place where she had been.

BELEAST, December 27.

I am happy to inform you, that further than reports, there is no appearance of the peace of the country being disturbed. I have been informed these alarms were in a great measure occasioned by anonymous letters to persons in power, which it was certainly their duty to take notice of by using every necessary precaution. Fifteen persons were yesterday brought in prisoners by a party of the 22d; but I have not heard there was any charge against them, but

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